

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Arizona	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XVII-b, Commerce & Industry: XV, Mining Frontier
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Jerome (United Verde Mine)	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Yavapai County, at Jerome, on U. S. Alt. 89, 33 miles northeast of Prescott.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Phelps Dodge Corporation, 40 Wall Street, New York, 5, N. Y.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Jerome and Bisbee were Arizona's two most important copper producing centers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

High grade copper ore was discovered in 1876 in the Black Hills of central Arizona at the future site of Jerome by John Rufner and August McKinnon. Extraction, however, did not become profitable, due to huge costs of transportation, until 1882, when the Santa Fe's Atlantic and Pacific Railroad reached Ash Fork, Arizona, about 60 miles northwest of Jerome.¹

In 1883 the United Verde Copper Co. was formed, with New York City financial backing, to exploit the deposits. One of these financiers, Eugene Jerome (grandfather of Winston Churchill) gave his name to the wild mining town that sprang up on the side of Mingus Mountain in 1883. A 50-ton furnace was erected to smelt the ore. The United Verde Company produced 1,763,000 pounds of copper during this first year. In 1887 a drop in the price of copper made production unprofitable and in 1888 William Andrews Clark, the famous Montana copper king who later became U. S. Senator, purchased the United Verde property and started fresh exploratory work. Operations were renewed in 1889. In 1894 Clark erected a copper smelter with a monthly capacity of 3,500,000 pounds over the mine workings at Jerome and also built a narrow gauge railroad from Jerome to connect with the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix railroad at Jerome Junction.

¹In 1887 the Santa Fe railroad built a branch line southward from Ash Fork to Prescott, 33 miles southwest of Jerome.

(Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Robert G. Cleland, A History of Phelps Dodge, 1834-1950 (New York, 1950), 238-241; Thomas A. Rickard, A History of American Mining (New York, 1932), 288-291; Rufus K. Wyllys, Arizona, The History of a Frontier State (Phoenix, Ariz., 1950), 225-26, 277, 286; Hubert H. Bancroft, History of Arizona and New Mexico (San Francisco, 1889) 590-91, 605.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

None.

**(Southwest Region Office Negs 14019-22).

***Visited by Robert M. Utley.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS: ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good, many orig. bldgs. Mining Town	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	13. DATE OF VISIT May 22, 1958***
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i>	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE May 3, 1966	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

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STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Arizona	Jerome (United Verde Mine)

7. Continued:

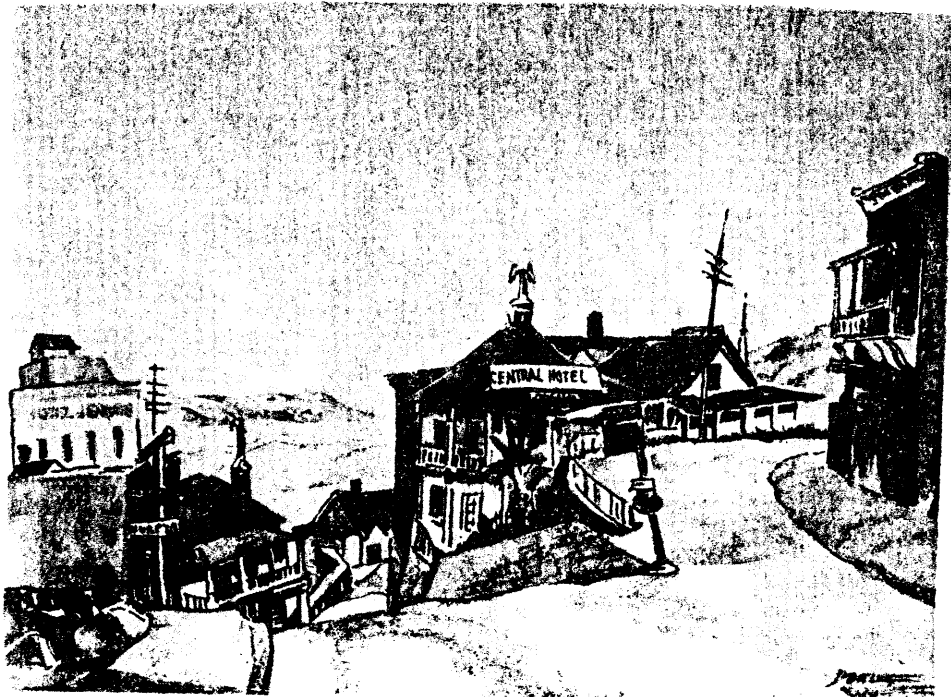
In 1911 the company laid out the town of Clarkdale, located some six miles from the Jerome mines, and here, in 1912-1915, erected a larger and more modern smelter. The huge copper production at Jerome, together with that at Bisbee, was important in making Arizona the leading copper producing state in the nation by 1907. By 1923 the United Verde company had produced nearly 1,112,000,000 pounds of copper, 564,000 ounces of gold, and 18,500,000 ounces of silver.² This output had yielded Clark a fortune of over a hundred million dollars.³

In 1935, when copper prices were at their lowest, Phelps Dodge bought out the United Verde property. The demand for copper during World War II led to intensive mining that depleted the known ore deposits, and both Jerome and Clarkdale are today rapidly becoming ghost towns.

Condition of the Site. Perched precariously on the sheer slope of Mingus Mountain, Jerome, with its rickety frame buildings propped on stilts and its narrow, steep streets, retains much of its 1890 appearance and atmosphere. A museum in the center of the town displays objects relating Jerome's early mining history. Across the street still stands the old water-jacket blast furnace that went into use at Jerome in 1883.

²Thomas R. Richard's figures for the United Verde mine, for the period 1888 to 1930, are as follows: The mine yielded a total of 20,314,000 tons of ore, from which 1,959,098,900 pounds of copper had been extracted, together with 1,009,800 ounces of gold and 34,586,000 ounces of silver. The value of this output he estimated to be slightly more than \$350,000,000.

³In 1888 Clark owned 70% of the stock, and by the time of his death in 1925, he held 95 1/2% of the 300,000 shares in the United Verde Copper Company.



Jerome, Arizona. Drawings by Luriel S. Woll, 1951.
From The Bonanza Trail.